

II AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Applicant amends claims 1–6, 8–10, 15, 17, 22–31 and cancels claims 7 and 14, as shown in the following complete listing of all of the claims of the application, with an identification of the status of each claim.

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method for the disinfection of air, comprising the distributing or atomizing of an antimicrobial composition, wherein a concentration of the antimicrobial composition of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m³ of air is adjusted by said distributing or atomizing of said antimicrobial composition, and/or exchanging air systems are adjusted to achieve a dosage of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m³ of air per hour, and/or a permanent concentration of from 5 to 10 ppb of the antimicrobial composition is achieved, wherein said antimicrobial composition is free from ethanol and isopropanol and ~~contains~~ comprises

(a) ~~one or more GRAS (generally recognized as safe) flavor alcohols or their derivatives~~ propylene glycol; and

(b) one or more flavoring agents selected from

~~(b1) polyphenol compounds~~ tannins; and

~~(b2) GRAS flavor acids or their derivatives~~ lactic acid.

Claim 2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein
said antimicrobial composition ~~contains~~ comprises

from 0.1 to 99.9% by weight of ~~component (a)~~ propylene glycol;

from 0.01 to 25% by weight of ~~component (b1)~~ tannins; and optionally

from 0.01 to 70% by weight of ~~component (b2)~~ lactic acid.

Claim 3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said ~~GRAS flavor alcohol (a) is selected from~~ antimicrobial composition consists essentially of:

~~benzyl alcohol, acetoin, propyl alcohol, and propylene glycol, glycerol, n-butyl alcohol, iso-butyl alcohol, hexyl alcohol, L-menthol, octyl alcohol, cinnamyl alcohol, α -methylbenzyl alcohol, heptyl alcohol, n-amyl alcohol, iso-amyl alcohol, anisalcohol, citronellol, n-decyl alcohol, geraniol, β - γ -hexenol, lauryl alcohol, linalool, nerolidol, nonadienol, nonyl alcohol, rhodinol, terpineol, borneol, clineol, anisole, cuminyl alcohol, 10-undecene-1-ol, 1-hexadecanol, or their derivatives;~~

~~said polyphenol compound (b1) is selected from:~~

~~catechol, resorcinol, hydroquinone, phloroglucinol, pyrogallol, cyclohexane, usnic acid, acylpolyphenols, lignins, anthocyan, flavones, catechols, gallic acid derivatives, caffeic acid, flavonoids, derivatives of the mentioned polyphenols, and extracts from Camellia, Primula tannins; and~~

~~said GRAS acid (b2) is selected from:~~

~~acetic acid, aconitic acid, adipic acid, formic acid, malic acid, capronic acid, hydrocinnamic acid, pelargonic acid, lactic acid, phenoxyacetic acid, phenylacetic acid, valeric acid, iso-valeric acid, cinnamic acid, citric acid, mandelic acid, tartaric acid, fumaric acid, tannic acid, and their derivatives.~~

Claim 4. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said antimicrobial composition ~~contains~~ further comprises

~~(a1) at least one aromatic GRAS flavor alcohol as a necessary component~~
benzyl alcohol; and optionally

~~(a2) one or more further GRAS flavor alcohols or their derivatives.~~

Claim 5. (currently amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein said ~~aromatic GRAS flavor alcohol is selected from benzyl alcohol, 2-phenylethanol, 1-phenylethanol, cinnamic alcohol,~~ antimicrobial composition further comprises hydrocinnamic alcohol, ~~and 1-phenyl-1-propanol, preferably benzyl alcohol.~~

Claim 6. (currently amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein said ~~further GRAS flavor alcohol (a2) is~~ antimicrobial composition further comprises a hydrophilic GRAS flavor alcohol, and/or said GRAS acid (b2) is a hydrophilic GRAS lactic acid.

Claim 7. (cancelled)

Claim 8. (currently amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein said antimicrobial composition ~~contains~~ comprises

from 0.1 to 99% by weight, of ~~component (a1)~~ benzyl alcohol;
from 0 to 99.8% by weight of ~~component (a2)~~ propylene glycol; and
from 0.01 to 25% by weight of ~~component (b1)~~ tannins; and optionally
from 0.01 to 70% by weight, of ~~component (b2)~~ lactic acid.

Claim 9. (currently amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein said alcohol component of said antimicrobial composition ~~contains~~ comprises from 0.1 to 10% by weight of ~~component (a)~~ benzyl alcohol and from 90 to 99.9% by weight of ~~hydrophilic GRAS flavor alcohol~~ propylene glycol.

Claim 10. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said antimicrobial composition ~~contains~~ comprises additional GRAS flavoring agents selected from (c) phenols, (d) esters, (e) terpenes, (f) acetals, (g) aldehydes, and (h) essential oils.

Claim 11. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein said antimicrobial composition contains from 0.001 to 25% by weight of said additional GRAS flavoring agents (c) to (h).

Claim 12. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein said additional GRAS flavoring agents are phenols (c) and/or essential oils (h).

Claim 13. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said antimicrobial composition does not contain any derivatives of said GRAS flavoring agents.

Claim 14. (cancelled)

Claim 15. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~14~~ 4, wherein said antimicrobial composition ~~contains~~ comprises from 0.1 to 20% by weight of benzyl alcohol and from 0.01 to 10% by weight of tannins.

Claim 16. (previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the water content of said antimicrobial composition is less than 35% by weight.

Claim 17. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said composition

- (a) further ~~contains~~ comprises ~~monohydric or polyhydric alcohols having from 2 to 10 carbon atoms;~~ emulsifiers, stabilizers, antioxidants, preservatives, solvents, and/or carrier materials; ~~or~~
- (b) ~~exclusively consists of GRAS flavoring agents.~~

Claim 18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said atomizing of said antimicrobial composition is effected by a two-fluid nozzle system, evaporation system or a bubbler installation for the air, or in a special design for packaging.

Claim 19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein a concentration of said antimicrobial composition of from 0.01 to 0.1 ml per m³ of air is adjusted by said distributing or atomizing of said antimicrobial composition, and/or exchanging air systems are adjusted to achieve a dosage of from 0.01 to 0.1 ml per m³ of air per hour.

Claims 20 and 21. (cancelled)

Claim 22. (currently amended) An antimicrobial composition for the disinfection of air, that can be added to the air in a dosage of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m³ of air per hour and be an effective disinfectant in a concentration of from 5 to 10 ppb air, wherein said composition is free from ethanol and isopropanol and ~~contains~~ comprises

(a) ~~one or more GRAS (generally recognized as safe) flavor alcohols or their derivatives; and~~ propylene glycol.

(b) ~~one or more flavoring agents selected from~~

~~(b1) — polyphenol compounds; tannins and~~

~~(b2) — GRAS flavor acids or their derivatives~~ lactic acid.

Claim 23. (currently amended) A method for the disinfection of air to reduce the concentration of germs selected from the group consisting of at least one of gram-positive bacteria, gram-negative bacteria, molds, spore-formers and viruses, said method comprising the distributing or atomizing of an antimicrobial composition, wherein a concentration of the antimicrobial composition of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m³ of air is adjusted by said distributing or atomizing of said antimicrobial composition, and/or exchanging air systems are adjusted to achieve a dosage of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m³ of air per hour, and/or a permanent concentration of from 5 to 10 ppb of the antimicrobial composition is achieved, wherein said antimicrobial composition is free from ethanol and isopropanol and ~~contains~~ comprises

- (a) ~~one or more GRAS (generally recognized as safe) flavor alcohols or their derivatives~~ propylene glycol; and
- (b) one or more flavoring agents selected from
 - ~~(b1) polyphenol compounds~~ tannins; and
 - ~~(b2) GRAS flavor acids or their derivatives~~ lactic acid.

Claim 24. (currently amended) The method according to claim 23,
wherein said antimicrobial composition ~~contains~~ comprises
from 0.1 to 99.9% by weight, of ~~component (a)~~ propylene glycol;
from 0.01 to 25% by weight, of ~~component (b1)~~ tannins; and optionally
from 0.01 to 70% by weight, of ~~component (b2)~~ lactic acid.

Claim 25. (currently amended) A method for the disinfection of air to reduce the concentration of germs selected from the group consisting of at least one of bacillus subtilis, pseudomona fluorescens, staphylococcus aureus, aspergillus niger and hepatitis B, said method comprising the distributing or atomizing of an antimicrobial composition, wherein a concentration of the antimicrobial composition of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m³ of air is adjusted by said distributing or atomizing of said antimicrobial composition, and/or exchanging air systems are adjusted to achieve a dosage of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m³ of air per hour, and/or a permanent concentration of from 5 to 10 ppb of the antimicrobial composition is achieved, wherein said antimicrobial composition is free from ethanol and isopropanol and ~~contains~~ comprises

- (a) ~~one or more GRAS (generally recognized as safe) flavor alcohols or their derivatives~~ propylene glycol; and
- (b) one or more flavoring agents selected from
 - ~~(b1) polyphenol compounds~~ tannins; and
 - ~~(b2) GRAS flavor acids or their derivatives~~ lactic acid.

Claim 26. (currently amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein said antimicrobial composition ~~contains~~ comprises

from 0.1 to 99.9% by weight, of ~~component (a)~~ propylene glycol; and
from 0.01 to 25% by weight, of ~~component (b1)~~ tannins; and optionally
from 0.01 to 70% by weight, of ~~component (b2)~~ lactic acid.

Claim 27. (currently amended) A method for the disinfection of air to reduce the concentration of bacillus anthracis, said method, comprising the distributing or atomizing of an antimicrobial composition, wherein a concentration of the antimicrobial composition of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m³ of air is adjusted by said distributing or atomizing of said antimicrobial composition, and/or exchanging air systems are adjusted to achieve a dosage of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m³ of air per hour, and/or a permanent concentration of from 5 to 10 ppb of the antimicrobial composition is achieved, wherein said antimicrobial composition is free from ethanol and isopropanol and ~~contains~~ comprises

- (a) ~~one or more GRAS (generally recognized as safe) flavor alcohols or their derivatives~~ propylene glycol; and
- (b) one or more flavoring agents selected from
 - ~~(b1) polyphenol compounds~~ tannins; and
 - ~~(b2) GRAS flavor acids or their derivatives~~ lactic acid.

Claim 28. (currently amended) The method according to claim 27, wherein
said antimicrobial composition ~~contains~~ comprises
from 0.1 to 99.9% by weight, of ~~component (a);~~ propylene glycol; and
from 0.01 to 25% by weight, of ~~component (b1);~~ tannins; and/or
from 0.01 to 70% by weight, of ~~component (b2)~~ lactic acid.

Claim 29. (currently amended) The method according to claim 27,
wherein said GRAS flavor alcohol (a) is selected from antimicrobial composition
consists essentially of:

benzyl alcohol, ~~acetoin, propyl alcohol, and~~ propylene glycol, glycerol, ~~n-butyl~~
~~alcohol, iso-butyl alcohol, hexyl alcohol, L-menthol, octyl alcohol, cinnamyl~~
~~alcohol, α -methylbenzyl alcohol, heptyl alcohol, n-amyl alcohol, iso-amyl~~
~~alcohol, anisalcohol, citronellol, n-decyl alcohol, geraniol, β - γ -hexenol, lauryl~~
~~alcohol, linalool, nerolidol, nonadienol, nonyl alcohol, rhodinol, terpineol,~~
~~borneol, clineol, anisole, cuminyl alcohol, 10-undecene-1-ol, 1-hexadecanol,~~
~~or their derivative;~~

said ~~polyphenol compound (b1) is selected from:~~

~~catechol, resorcinol, hydroquinone, phloroglucinol, pyrogallol, cyclohexane,~~
~~usnic acid, acylpolyphenols, lignins, anthocyan, flavones, catechols, gallic~~
~~acid derivatives, caffeic acid, flavonoids, derivatives of the mentioned~~
~~polyphenols, and extracts from Camellia, Primula~~ tannins; and

said ~~GRAS acid (b2) is selected from:~~

~~acetic acid, aconitic acid, adipic acid, formic acid, malic acid, capronic acid,~~
~~hydrocinnamic acid, pelargonic acid, lactic acid, phenoxyacetic acid,~~
~~phenylacetic acid, valeric acid, iso-valeric acid, cinnamic acid, citric acid,~~
~~mandelic acid, tartaric acid, fumaric acid, tannic acid, and their derivatives.~~

Claim 30. (currently amended) The method according to claim 27, wherein the alcohol constituent of said antimicrobial composition contains comprises
(a1) ~~at least one aromatic GRAS flavor alcohol as a necessary component;~~
~~and optionally~~ benzyl alcohol and
(a2) ~~one or more further GRAS flavor alcohols or their derivatives~~ propylene glycol.

Claim 31. (currently amended) The method according to claim 27, wherein ~~said aromatic GRAS flavor alcohol is selected from~~ antimicrobial composition further comprises benzyl alcohol, ~~2-phenylethanol, 1-phenylethanol, cinnamic alcohol, hydrocinnamic alcohol, and 1-phenyl-1-propanol.~~